

From: Josie Robinson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/7/01 6:22pm
Subject: Proposed Microsoft Settlement

My vote is against the settlement as it stands today. I am a professional in the IT industry since computers began on the market and I can assure you that by "forcing" Microsoft to "give" away their software to schools who may be needy is like letting the wolf into the sheep's pen! This will give them a foot hold in the school industry and they will emerge that much stronger in the future. Not only that, the donations can be written off, can they not? So they do not get punished financially either!

I am a system administrator who works on both Microsoft ,Unix and some Apple products and can assure you that I know what I am speaking about. Apple has a good foot in the door to the schools nowadays and rightly so as their product is much easier to use than Microsoft products and superior. Why would you want to remove the only remaining foothold that Apple has on the market? This could well push them out of business.

Wouldn't it be better to make Microsoft install it's products on other operating systems and other Intel based machines so that they could sample their own medicine? If you have ever tried to configure a product that was not "blessed" by Microsoft you would understand why this would be just deserts! I have watched them chase Netscape out of business, almost, even though Netscape had the better product. How you ask? By giving away Internet Explorer. By then they had enough money that it did not matter if they got any money from their web browser product. Meanwhile, Netscape has to sell their product to stay afloat in business. Didn't Netscape have to merge with AOL?

No, I say stop the cycle now. Some one has to put a stop to Microsoft's bullying ways. You, the DOJ, did a good turn by prosecuting them as a monopoly. Now do the right thing by giving them a true punishment. Please do not give them another opportunity to make yet, more money and tighten their strong hold in the market by pure might.

Thanks for listening.

Josie Robinson
Raleigh, NC